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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 FBIE-00 SCA-01 VOE-00

EB-07 SY-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /073 W
---------- 024788
O 080950Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL NICE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1173
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LYON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : PINT, PINS, FR
SUBJECT : CONTINUED VIOLENCE IN CORSICA
REF : NICE 374, 177 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY - A DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 7 AT AJACCIO BY THE COMITE ANTI-REPRESSION CORSE TO DEMAND THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF JACQUES FIESCHI, PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION UNION STRADA CORSE TURNED INTO DISASTER WHEN A MASKED GROUP OF SEVEN MEN EXPLODED AN AIR FRANCE BOEING 707 AT AJACCIO S CAMPO DELL ORO AIRPORT. PRIOR TO THE BOMBING, SEVERAL TRAILOR TRUCKS OF THE DEMONSTRATING TRANSPORTERS BLOCKED THE RUNWAYS AS FRUITLESS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE REGIONAL PREFECT AND UNION LEADERS WERE IN PROGRESS. FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION, THE COMMANDO GROUP ESCAPED FROM LOCAL POLICE SURROUNDING THE AIRPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DEMONSTRATORS, ORGANIZED BY THE COMITE ANTI-REPRESSION CORSE AND OTHERS ALIGNING THEMSELVES WITH THAT GROUP TO FIGHT
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FOR THE LIBERATION FROM PRISON OF JACQUES FIESCHI, NUMBERED OVER

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800 IN AJACCIO CENTER DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 7TH. FIESCHI HAD BEEN JAILED IN AJACCIO AND IS CHARGED WITH INCITING DEMONSTRATIONS AND ORDERING GENERAL TRANSPORTATION STRIKE ON THE ISLAND. FIESCHI, THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION UNION STRADA CORSA , WAS ARRESTED ON 30 AUGUST 1976 WHEN HE BLOCKED ACCESS TO THE AJACCIO FERRY TO THE MAINLAND WITH ONE OF HIS TRUCKS IN THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON IN CORSICA. HE WAS, AT THE TIME, PROTESTING THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN PARIS HAD DONE NOTHING TO RESOLVE THE TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES AS A RESULT OF THE CUTS IN FERRY SERVICE IN HIS HOME PORT OF PROPRIANO. THE INCIDENT ENDED WITH FIESCHI FIRING TWO SHOTS AT THE POLICE ; NO ONE WAS INJURED.

3. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS POINTED OUT THAT YESTERDAY S CROWD WAS MUCH SMALLER THAN THE FAMOUS MARCHE SUR AJACCIO AND EVEN SMALLER THAN THE DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 1975, IN SUPPORT OF THE RELEASE OF DR. EDMOND SIMEONI. FOR OVER TWO HOURS, AN ORDERLY CROWD AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE TRAILOR TRUCKS, WHICH WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CITY BY LOCAL POLICE. THE SIXTEEN TRUCK DRIVERS THUS CONVERGED ON AJACCIO AIRPORT AND INTERRUPTED AIRPORT TRAFFIC BY BLOCKING THE RUNWAYS WITH THEIR TRUCKS. UPON RECEIVING WORD OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE TRUCKS, THE DEMONSTRATORS LOST NO TIME IN REACHING THE AIRPORT. THE ARRIVAL OF THE TRUCKS BLOCKED THE DEPARTURE OF A BOEING 707 OF AIR FRANCE, UPON WHICH THE PASSENGERS HAD ALREADY EMBARKED, AND A MERCURE OF AIR INTER.

4. AMONG THE PASSENGERS OF THE AIR FRANCE FLIGHT WHO WERE FORCED TO DEPLANE BY THE DEMONSTRATORS, WAS THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF PORTO VECCHIO, DR. JEAN PAUL DE ROCCA SERRA. AS HE LEFT THE PLANE AND PUSHED HIS WAY THROUGH THE CROWD, HE WAS VERBALLY ATTACKED AND SHOVED AROUND.

5. AT APPROXIMATELY 7 PM, THE PREFECT OF THE CORSICAN REGION, MR. JEAN RIOLACCI, NOTIFIED THE LEADERS OF THE COMITE ANTI-REPRESSION THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE A DELEGATION OF ITS MEMBERS IF THE AIRPORT WERE EVACUATED AT ONCE. IN REPLY, MR. DOMINIAUE ALFONSI, IN THE NAME OF C.A.R., ANNOUNCED ON A LOUD-SPEAKER AT THE AJACCIO AIRPORT, THAT THE C.A.R. REFUSED THE PREFET S PROPOSAL ; HE ADDED THAT BEFORE THEY WOULD DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH RIOLACCI, ALL THE POLICE MUST BE WITHDRAWN ; AUTOMOBILES MUST BE FREE TO
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CIRCULATE AT WILL ; ALL DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON MUST BE FREED AND, ABOVE ALL, JACQUES FIESCHI MUST BE RELEASED FROM HIS UNJUST IMPRISONMENT AND THE DEMANDS OF THE STRADA CORSA MET.

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6. AT 2200 HRS. THE PILOT OF THE AF 707 WAS ORDERED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS TO MOVE HIS PLANE TO THE END OF THE RUNWAY AND HALF HOUR LATER, AS MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS BEGAN TO DEPART FROM THE AIRPORT, SEVEN MEN (FIVE OF WHOM WERE MASKED) BOARDED THE AIRCRAFT AND PLACED THREE DYNAMITE CHARGES. THE PLANE EXPLODED FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER AND THE BLAST WAS HEARDTHROUGHOUT THE CITY. AS ALL AVAILABLE CITY FIREMEN SPED TO THE SCENE, THE BOMBERS DISAPPEARED INTO THE NIGHT.

7. FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT, SEVERAL PERSONS HAVE BEEN HELD BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING : AMONG THOSE ARE THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STRADA CORSA , MR. VINCENT ARMANI.
MURPHY

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